

Travel Tips by Outlander Packing for Your Trip



Be a smarty-pants traveler with these packing tips!

You never hear a traveler say after a trip, “Gee, I wish I had packed heavier and brought more stuff.” Why is that? Well, most of us are already over-packers. We tend to pack for life’s “What ifs.” If there is a 10% chance of rain, we still pack an umbrella. And if the Queen invites me to tea? I will need that formal dress, right?

Packing smartly can be packing light, or not. It means packing so we can be independent, mobile, safe, and happy with moving about on our travels.

What is the purpose of your trip?

Business? Pleasure? Will you be outside or inside? In heat or cold? What is the weather like in general for your destination(s)? There is no bad weather in travel...just clothing that doesn’t match the weather!

How will you move about?

Are you arriving and unpacking once? Moving around a bit? Will you have a car, or will you be using public transport? In many countries public transportation (e.g., trains) is a fabulous way to see the sights – if you can handle your luggage. Take your packed luggage for a walk if you are not on a guided tour and will have to handle the bags yourselves some times. Make sure you can easily walk with it up and down stairs.

What are local customs?

Are short-shorts frowned upon off the beach at your destination? Do knees and shoulders have to be covered in religious sites you might be entering? Is camouflage clothing illegal? A little research into your destination will help you pack appropriately. Or, ask your Outlander agent.

How long is your trip?

Guess what? It doesn’t matter. Pack for a week. And then plan to wash some clothing or have them laundered (inexpensive in many countries) if needed. Choosing the right fabrics and color scheme can give you a plethora of clothing options.

Layers matter

Instead of ballooning your suitcase with one bulky sweater, pack two thin ones and save on the space. Layer your clothing for warmth and variable conditions. In cold weather, layer with an under base layer, shirt, and sweater. Add a scarf.



Fabrics matter

Choose fabrics for their pack-ability. They don't need to be special "travel clothing," but you know which of our clothing is notorious for wrinkling. Leave that item home. Merino wool and cashmere are excellent lightweight choices for cooler temperatures. Some fabrics like merino wool can be re-worn many times if they are aired out; it is miracle travel fabric. Check out the socks by Smartwool and other brands. Quick-dry cotton and the newer quick-dry synthetics is a traveler's friend for warmer weather.

Pack your "A" list and leave everything else home

Be ruthless. You have your "A" clothing – the items that make you feel like a million bucks when you wear them. Pack them. Don't pack the "B" and "C" lists because you think you need more clothing. You won't wear "B" and "C," because you will re-wear the "A" list, because that clothing makes you feel confident. Leave "B" and "C" at home.

Choose a neutral color scheme

Stick with that scheme (that can be the hard part!) Spice up your neutrals with scarves and other lightweight accessories. Consider a simple black or white tee: it can be worn many ways, with changed accessories, and separate pieces. Accessories are your friend!

Shoes

Shoes are the bane of any traveler. Try to take no more than three pairs, including the pair on your feet the day of travel. Make sure they are not new. Broken-in shoes are probably the most important item you can pack. Stuff your shoes with items so all that empty space is not wasted in your suitcase.



Streamline Electronics & Papers

Consider an e-reader if you don't already have one and you like to read. If you are planning on bringing paper travel guidebooks, rip out the chapters you'll need and bring those. Consider going paperless with an electronic itinerary.

Downsize Your Toiletries

Toiletries, especially liquids, are heavy. Downsize/decant your existing items into smaller quantities. Contact lens containers make excellent holders for creams and some cosmetics. Share a hairbrush with your significant other. Share a deodorant (travel size, of course). Look for travel size containers that are refillable, such as those by Toothpaste 2 Go; these will save you money and can be used for many toiletry items.

Government Regulations

Know the regulations of where you are traveling. If traveling by air, TSA rules regulate the amount of liquids you can bring in a carry on bag. Many countries have similar regulations.

Try Packing Cubes – Maybe?

Packing cubes can be very helpful to organize clothing, especially if you are changing locations. Some people swear by vacuum bags. These are both useful but while they give you a bit more space, the stuff still weighs the same.

SOURCES

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